

BOATING FACTS

Titles

- **Boats that are more than 12 feet long must be titled.**

To obtain a title, visit any motor vehicle agency, and:

Provide the HIN (hull identification number); proof of ownership, such as a certificate of origin (if new) or the former title signed by the previous owner (if used), or a sworn affidavit to attest to the boat's ownership; structural information (year, make, type, length, material, power source, use); and owner information (date of birth, driver license and Social Security number) or a business number (corpcode). Homemade boats or boats without a HIN will be assigned a number by Motor Vehicle Services after inspection by the NJ State Police.

Pay \$20 for a clear title; \$40 if there's one lien. Corrected titles cost \$20; duplicate titles cost \$25.

Title exemptions: ships' lifeboats, canoes or kayaks, inflatables, surfboards, rowing sculls, racing shells, tenders/dinghies used only for transportation between vessel and shore and for no other purpose, and outboard motors.

Registrations

- **Titled boats and motor-powered boats (any length) must also be registered annually. To register, visit any motor vehicle agency, and:**

Provide proof of ownership (see above), your NJ driver license and Social Security number, and

Pay the fee based on this chart.

TYPE OF VESSEL	LENGTH: UNDER				65 FEET OR MORE
	16	26	40	65 FEET	
Pleasure:	\$6	14	26	40	\$125
Commercial:	\$7	15	27	41	\$126

Operating Requirements

Licenses, certificates and safety

- **Persons 12 years old or younger** may not remain onboard any underway vessel (except short-term ferries and large commercial vessels longer than 65 feet) unless they are properly wearing an approved personal flotation device.
- **Persons under 13 years** may not operate any power vessel.
- **Persons 13-15 years old** may operate a power vessel of less than 1 HP, a vessel powered by a 12 volt trolling motor, or a vessel 12 feet or longer powered by less than 10 HP if they have successfully completed an approved boating safety course and have a boating safety certificate in their possession. Anyone, of any age, may operate those vessels without a boat license.
- **Persons 16 years old or older** may operate any recreational power vessel.

Persons operating on nontidal waters must also carry a New Jersey boat license. In addition, a person born in 1979 or later and all personal watercraft* operators must complete an approved boating safety course and carry the certificate whenever operating the vessel. They must present this certificate when they apply for a boat license to operate on nontidal waters.

*A personal watercraft is less than 16 feet long equipped with an internal combustion engine that powers a water jet pump that can't be disengaged as to prevent the vessel from making headway.

Violations

• Penalties for boating law violators include:

Operating a power boat without completing a boating safety course: minimum \$100, maximum \$500 fine.

Failing to carry or exhibit a license when operating a power boat on nontidal waters: up to \$500 fine and/or up to 60 days imprisonment.

• Penalties for boating under the influence of drugs or alcohol and/or refusal include:

Operating a power boat while DUI on tidal or nontidal waters:

1st Offense: loss of right to operate in NJ:

Vessel: 12 months

Vehicle: 3 months*

*Violators under age 17: to 17 years, 3 months

MOPED operators: from sentence date to 17 years, 3 months
and

Fine: \$250-400

2nd Offense: loss of right to operate in NJ:

Vessel: 24 months

Vehicle: 6 months*

Fine: \$500-\$1,000

*Violators under age 17: to 17 years, 6 months

MOPED operators: from sentence date to 17 years, 3 months
and

Community service: 30 days

Jail: 48 hours-90 days

Note: Penalties for certain DUI-related offenses may increase to double fines and imprisonment (if committed within 1,000 feet of property used for school purposes) or forfeiture of the vessel and/or vehicle.

* These offenses include DUI, driving revoked, vehicular homicide or refusal to take a chemical test.

• Penalties for refusing a breathalyzer or chemical test, all ages, are loss of right to operate power boats and vehicles* and:

1st Offense: 6 months and \$250-500 fine.

2nd Offense: 2 years and \$250-500 fine.

3rd Offense: 10 years and \$250-500 fine.

*Vehicles are automobiles, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, MOPEDs and agricultural vehicles.

For further information

- **Boat safety certificates:** (609) 882-2000, x6173
- **Boat safety courses:** (800) 336-2628
- **Boat licenses:** (888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out of state
- **Cost:** Four year photo license: \$18 (\$16 if added to photo driver license)
- **Availability:** Obtain your license at any motor vehicle agency. Be prepared to show your boat safety certificate when you apply.



New Jersey Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Services
www.state.nj.us/mvs

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